

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2220

July 11, 1985

## 1984 PROGRAM PAYMENTS

The federal government paid nearly \$6.6 billion commodity program payments in 1984, with 61 pct. going to the 95 pct. of the program participants who received less than \$25,000 each, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Only 5 pct. of the payees under all 1984 ASCS programs received more than \$25,000, but they accounted for 39 pct. of the total amount paid under the programs. Nearly 90 pct. of all program payments went to wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice and dairy producers; yet these commodities accounted for only 31 pct. of the total cash receipts from farming in 1984.

## USSR GRAIN SITUATION

Prospects for the 1985 USSR grain harvest have declined over the past month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A smaller crop and strong domestic demand are expected to result in larger imports than earlier expected. The 1985 Soviet grain crop is estimated at 190 million metric tons, 5 million less than earlier season estimates. The 5-million-ton reduction includes 4 million wheat, now estimated at 83 million tons, and 1 million coarse grains, now estimated at 95 million tons. The 190 million tons include 63 million winter grains, down from 64 million, and 127 million spring grains, down from 131 million.

## USSR GRAIN IMPORT ESTIMATE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimate of USSR grain imports for July-June 1985/86 was increased by 2 million tons to 39 million tons, including 20 million of wheat, 18 million of coarse grains, and 1 million of rice, pulses and miscellaneous grains. Both the wheat and coarse grain estimates were increased by 9 million tons from a month ago. Abundant world grain supplies and low grain prices along with strong domestic demand are expected to result in another year of large USSR imports. USSR grain purchases for delivery during the 1985/86 marketing year have been slow.

## U.S. CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1.85 billion bushels as of July 1, 1985. This is 10 pct. less than 1984. Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 83.2 million acres, up 3 pct. from last year. Growers expect to harvest 74.8 million acres for grain in 1985, up 4 pct. from 1984. This is 90 pct. of the planted acres. Soybean area planted is expected to total 63.3 million acres, down 7 pct. from 1984 and 1 pct. below the 1983 plantings.

## U.S. GRAIN STOCKS

Stocks of corn in all positions on June 1, 1985, are estimated at 71.9 million metric tons, 32 pct. more than on June 1, 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stocks of feed grains - corn, sorghum, barley and oats - at 89.1 million metric tons, are up 26 pct. from June 1 a year ago. Soybean stocks, at 16.6 million metric tons, are up 29 pct. from June 1 last year. Wheat stocks are estimated at 38.8 million metric tons, 2 pct. more than on June 1, 1984.

## AG PRICES PAID

The June Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 164 pct. of its 1977 average, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The index for June was 1 point below both a month and a year earlier. The feeder livestock and feed indexes were down from May while the family living component was higher. The tractor price index was lower than three months ago as incentives offered by dealers and manufacturers lowered prices. (For more information, call: 202/447-5446.)

## AG PRICES RECEIVED

The June Index of Prices Received by Farmers for All Farm Products was unchanged from May at 129 pct. of its Jan.-Dec. 1977 average, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Higher prices for hogs, tomatoes, potatoes, broilers and cotton were offset by lower prices for cattle, milk, wheat, hay, feed grains and lettuce. The index was 15 points - that's 10 pct. - below a year ago. (For more information, call: 202/447-5446.)

## EC IMPACT ON GRAIN EXPORTS

A major factor that continues to impact on the world and U.S. grain export situation is the supply and export position of the European Community, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This year the EC's grain supply is expected to match last season's record, given increased carryover from last season's huge crop and another sizable outturn anticipated this year. The potential exists for increased EC exports. However, it will likely be more difficult for the EC to increase or even maintain exports this year, since this year's Soviet total grain imports are expected to be sharply lower.

## GRAIN EXPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the significant developments over the past month affecting U.S. exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, include the following: Australian wheat sales to China in 1985 now total 1 million tons; France sold Egypt 325,000 tons of wheat flour, which in addition to Italian flour sold last month, could very likely cover Egypt's flour import needs for the balance of 1985; Canadian wheat sales to the Soviet now exceed the minimum specified in their supply agreement; Argentina made new wheat sales to Brazil; and Korea appears to have shifted most of its corn purchases back to the U.S. after shipping delays and higher prices for Chinese corn.

## LOAN AND PURCHASE RATES FOR CORN

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued county loan and purchase rates for 1985-crop corn. Rates are based on the national average announced on Sept. 14, 1984, of \$2.55 per bushel for No. 2 corn. Copies of the rate schedules for counties are available from the Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Wash., D.C. 20013.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen talks about current weather conditions in the U.S., particularly the dry weather in the Pacific Northwest, and how these conditions are affecting crops. Jim Johnson interviews. (421)

FARM SAFETY - LIGHTNING...USDA electrical engineer Ed Cohen focuses on lightning - what it is, where it's most prevalent and the types of problems it can cause. Don Elder interviews. (422)

GYPSY MOTH ERADICATION...Richard Riordan, USDA Forest Service, focuses on the origin of the gypsy moth and current integrated pest management techniques used with biological programs and chemical insecticides to eradicate this insect. Vic Powell interviews. (423)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are experimenting with peroxide to convert straw into a high energy animal feed, and working with a corn starch based compound called "Super Slurper" in a wide variety of products. Bill Pemble reports. (424)

CONFINEMENT LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS...Respiratory problems and flu-like symptoms often result from working in confinement livestock buildings. Pete Knapp, Iowa State University, focuses on factors contributing to this problem. Gary Beaumont interviews. (425)

GLOBAL CROP  
PRODUCTION

Global crop production is projected to remain well above use levels in 1985/86, with much of the stock accumulation in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Significant U.S. stock increases are in prospect for feed grains, soybeans and cotton. Economic growth abroad and lower crop prices should mean at least modest increases in consumption, but U.S. exports for most crops are expected to decline due to intense competition from other suppliers and expanded output in some importing countries.

SOYBEANS

Prospective U.S. soybean carryover in 1984/85 is up slightly from last month as a higher crush indication largely offsets a lower soybean export estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Higher soybean meal use, based on stronger year-to-date offtake, accounts for the improved 1984/85 U.S. crush estimate. A record 1985/86 world production of all oilseeds is forecast but is only slightly higher than 1984/85 world output. The higher indications are due to oilseed production outside the U.S., as projected U.S. oilseed crop production is lower than previously reported. U.S. producer soybean prices for 1985/86 are forecast at \$5.25 to \$5.95 per bushel.

LOAN INT. RATE:  
7-7/8 PCT.

Commodity loans disbursed in July by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corp. will carry a 7-7/8 pct. interest rate. The 7-7/8 pct. rate is the lowest since crop year 1978.



OFF MIKE

I'm writing this on the eve of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters' summer meeting in Washington, D.C. At this moment registration figures aren't available, but earlier indications were the attendance may be about the same as four years ago, or down slightly. I'll have more specific information next week. Assuming the program goes as planned, it should be a great meeting, with plenty of material on tape to take back home ... Mark Davis left Ed Johnson's Agri Broadcasting Net, Columbus, OH, June 28. Bill Liermann came from WKFI, Wilmington, OH, to take his place ... And Frank Moore is no longer with Larry Steckline's Mid America Ag Net, Wichita, KS. He left to take a job with Miller/Meester Public Relations, Minneapolis, MN. Mike Dain took Frank's place ... We learned from Layne Beaty (USDA Radio/TV Chief, Emeritus) that Bob Parker died June 16. Many farm broadcasters knew Bob. He worked at Deere and Co. in Moline, IL, for 15 years. He had worked in Extension Service in Connecticut and at WBAY Radio and TV in Green Bay, WI ... The latest Brownfield Network newsletter introduced us to a new staff member there. He is Brent Thompson, now working on-the-air at the network. He had worked at Cargill and had done some marketing reporting for KWTQ, Springfield, MO ... Speaking of Brownfield Net, later on this year its namesake Derry Brownfield will be going to the Orient for the third time in the past year-and-a-half.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1467...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Some 70,000 acres of Utah rangeland have been revitalized. The land is now covered with vegetation. There is less erosion and better water control. Jim Johnson visits with some of the people involved in this successful range conservation project.

AGRI/TAPE FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1456...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Acreage conservation reserve; Saving the soil; Trouble brewing for coffee farmers. Saving a bay.

CONSUMER TIME 3949...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Good parental advice; Traditional toymaking; Tobacco as a food; The firefighters; Walking stick fun.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, July 17, Ag. outlook report; Thurs, July 18, Cost of farm production report; Mon, July 15, Sub-Saharan African outlook; Tues, July 16, Milk production and Weekly weather and crop reports. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief  
Radio-Television Division